

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

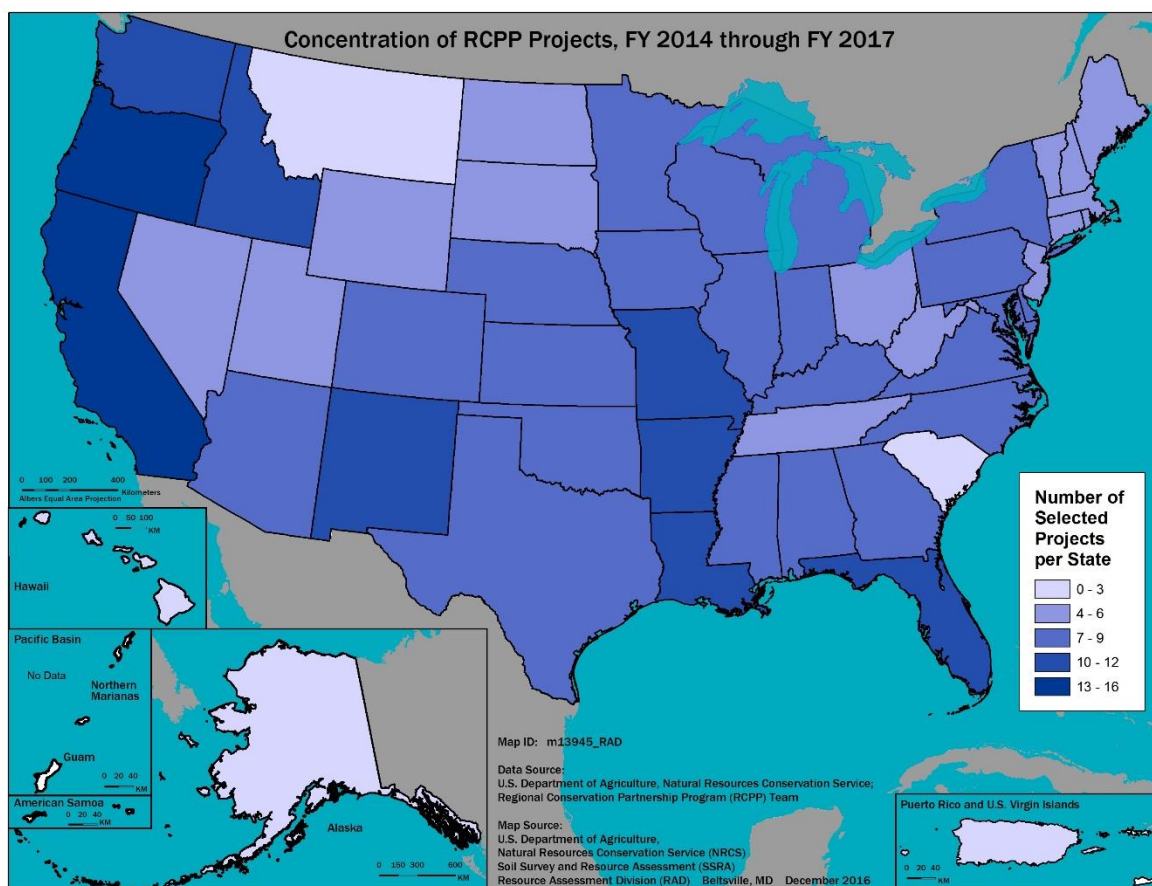
Investing in Kentucky



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

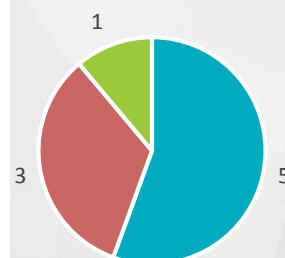
Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrates the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2017, NRCS is investing up to \$225 million in 88 projects that impact nearly every state in the nation, including four in Kentucky. Since 2014, NRCS has invested more than \$825 million in 286 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional \$1.4 billion. By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least \$2.4 billion. These projects are leading to cleaner and more abundant water, better soil and air quality, enhance wildlife habitat, more resilient and productive agricultural lands and stronger rural economies.



Kentucky Projects to Date

Projects by Resource Concern



9

Projects

\$17.45 million

NRCS Investment

96

Partners

Existing RCPP Projects

Year	Title	Funding Pool	Lead Partner	Number of Partners	NRCS Investment
2016	Overgrazing and Soil Degradation on Horse Farms	State	University of Kentucky	9	\$476,000
2016	Precision Conservation Management	CCA	Illinois Corn Growers Association	30	\$5.3 million
2016	Seeding Ground Cover on Marginal Lands	State	Scott County Conservation District	7	\$360,000
2014/2015	Managing Poo: Adoption of Nutrient Management and Conservation Practices	State	Kentucky Division of Conservation	5	\$1.6 million
2014/2015	Cerulean Warbler Appalachian Forestland Enhancement	National	Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture	23	\$8 million

2017 RCPP Projects

Increasing Farm Bill Participation and Benefits

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$350,000 (State)

Lead Partner: University of Kentucky

Number of Initial Partners: 2

Participating States: Kentucky (Lead State)

Forty-eight percent of Kentucky is forestland - that's 12.4 million acres of forests. Productive and well-managed forests enable producers/owners to retain forests for long-term socio-economic benefits and will conserve natural resources and improve forest health, condition and wildlife habitat. Through the project, the University of Kentucky and partners will focus on increasing conservation planning and conservation practice implementation to meet resource concerns and the high demand of technical assistance requests from Kentucky's woodland owners.

Lake Cumberland Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$210,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Wayne County Conservation District

Number of Initial Partners: 8

Participating States: Kentucky (Lead State)

The Wayne County Conservation District and eight local partners will provide leverage local and federal funds for four years to implement soil and water conservation practices in Kentucky.



Season Extension for Eastern Kentucky (S.E.E.K)

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$400,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Grow Appalachia/ Berea College

Number of Initial Partners: 10

Participating States: Kentucky (Lead State)

The Season Extension for Eastern Kentucky or S.E.E.K project includes higher education institutions, non-profit organizations and for profit entities that together will deliver conservation practices to the historically-underserved producers of eastern Kentucky. The S.E.E.K partnership specifically will support producers through cost share contracts for seasonal high tunnels, micro-irrigation in those tunnels, cover crop practices for soil health and mulching practice to reduce tillage and increase plant health. These Conservation practices will increase the length of the growing season, provide a platform for more efficient water management and reduce disease pressures that impact plant health. The S.E.E.K project will be led by Grow Appalachia- a rural food security project of Berea College – which currently has 16 partner sites that serve or border all of the 37 counties specified for the S.E.E.K partnership.

The Fort Campbell Private Lands Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$750,000 (State)

Lead Partner: Compatible Lands Foundation

Number of Initial Partners: 2

Participating States: Kentucky (Lead State)

The Fort Campbell Private Lands Initiative - a partnership between the Compatible Lands Foundation and the U.S. Army - will preserve approximately 20,000 acres of farmland adjacent to Fort Campbell Army Base in Christian County, Kentucky, through the acquisition of permanent conservation easements. Through this effort, prime farmlands, wildlife habitat and water quality/quantity in the Cumberland River Basin and Four Rivers Region will be protected.